

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 03446 101521Z

70

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 078353

R 101437Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3552

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 3446

EXDIS

PASS TO AID/W ONLY

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAID, ECRE, EFIN, EIND, HA

SUBJECT: RACETRACK PROJECT MISFIRES

REF: (A) PORT AU PRINCE 3001, (B) PORT AU PRINCE 2984

1. ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR DEBLE, PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S PROJECT FOR A FORMULA I AUTOMOBILE RACETRACK IN SISAL COUNTRY NORTH OF PORT AU PRINCE HAS RUN AFOUL OF OPPOSITION FROM HIS OWN MINISTERS, WHO MUSTERED ENOUGH COURAGE TO ADVISE HIM THAT INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY WOULD CERTAINLY REACT NEGATIVELY TO ANY GOH FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A PROJECT. THIS ARGUMENT PREVAILED. FRENCH BANKERS HAD SOUGHT A GOH LOAN AT 11 PER CENT INTEREST. THEY RETURNED TO PARIS EMPTY-HANDED AFTER GOH DECLINED TO SIGN CONTRACT WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED.

2. PRESIDENT DUVALIER NEVERTHELESS REMAINS CONVINCED THAT PROJECT WOULD BE MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION BRINGING IN SUBSTANTIAL REVENUE, AND IS SEEKING AN ALTERNATIVE FORMULA TO IMPLEMENT SCHEME ON TERMS THAT WOULD NOT EXPOSE GOH TO CRITICISM.

3. FOR VETERAN NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT ANDRE, WHO OPPOSED IDEA FROM START, THIS IS A VICTORY FOR "RATIONALITY" IN ECONOMIC DECISION MAKING, ALTHOUGH STRUGGLE IS FAR FROM OVER ON OTHER FRONTS. AA/LA GIRARD'S FORCEFUL EVOCATION OF ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT A 03446 101521Z

OF PROJECT DURING CALL ON ANDRE NOV 23 UNDOUBTEDLY FORTIFIED ANDRE'S

RESOLVE. IMF REPRESENTATIVE ALSO FOUGHT AGAINST ANY GOH
FINANCING. AMBASSADOR SALOMON MAY HAVE HELPED DISSUADE
PRESIDENT, AND WE APPRECIATE ROLE PLAYED BY ARA/CAR DESK
OFFICER IN MAKING OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO HIM.

4. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WATCH FOR ANY RESUSCITATION OF PROJECT.
ISHAM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AUTOMOBILES, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTA03446
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760457-0461
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761254/aaaabuii.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY <MCM 20040526 CORRECTION>; ONLY, EXDIS
Reference: 76 PORT AU PRINCE 3001, 76 PORT AU PRINCE 2984
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <26 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040526
Subject: RACETRACK PROJECT MISFIRES
TAGS: EAID, ECRE, EFIN, EIND, HA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006